

Fremont Conservation Commission
09-11-06 Minutes

FREMONT CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of September 11, 2006

Amended and Approved September 25, 2006

Present: Chairman Jack Karcz, Members Janice O'Brien, Tina Sturdivant, Bill Knee, Alternate Pat deBeer, Recording Secretary Meredith Bolduc.

Chrm. Karcz appointed Alt. DeBeer as a voting member for this meeting.

MINUTES

Mbr. O'Brien made the motion to accept the minutes of the August 21, 2006 meeting as written.

Motion seconded by Alt. deBeer with unanimous favorable vote except for Mbr. Knee who abstained as he was absent from that meeting.

OAK RIDGE

Chrm. Karcz reported that written authorization for the NHDRED Recreational Trails Program Grant is now in hand and the project can begin. He reported that he spoke with Jason Teaster of SPNHF about delivery of the sign which he needs to include in an update report to DRED.

ERLAC

Mbr. Sturdivant reported the following;

Exeter River Signs; At the last ERLAC meeting the total number of signs requested by all river communities was compiled. About 40 of the smaller river signs may be donated, potentially reducing the overall cost. There will be more information at next meeting in September. She received an e-mail detailing the invoicing process from DES for the purchase of the signs. The RPC grant application letter of support from the Town, as requested by Theresa Walker, was drafted on August 30, 2006 and remitted.

Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act Study Committee (CSPASC); All Local Advisory Committees have been asked to submit comments about important issues that warrant attention by the CSPASC. NH Shoreland Protection Act RSA 483B is being reworked. A suggested area of improvement is public information, particularly targeting education of the general public about the importance of preserving the integrity of shorelines. She will report additional information as it becomes available.

Mbr. Sturdivant reported that she has received information from DES relative to the river draw-downs and a list of towns affected. Fremont is not affected, but she has the list available for anyone interested. She also has a copy of a Watershed Vulnerability Analysis of the Exeter River study done by Fardy and Landry.

Mbr. Sturdivant stated that she obtained 5 copies of the Olive Tardiff book, *The Exeter-Squamscott, River of Many Uses* to place in the Fremont Public Library for the September 16, 2006 sale. This along with a flyer detailing what the money raised from sale of the book goes toward funding. The cost is 15.00 and Mrs. Bassett has agreed to leave the book for sale in the library in the event that there are any that did not sell.

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In an August 31, 2006 E-message, Mbr. Sturdivant reported that ERLAC volunteers are working with the NH Coastal Program sampling for river invertebrates and testing water quality at various site along the Exeter River.

GLEN OAKES

At 7:40 pm Forester Charlie Moreno met with the Commission and submitted a Forest and Wildlife Management Plan proposal for the 312 acre Glen Oakes property, including specifications and estimates for professional services. The Members reviewed the plan which included:

1. Introduction: Abstract, Property Information, Parcel Natural History
2. Management Objectives/Guiding Philosophy/Management Strategy
3. Maps: Natural Features and Forest Types, Wildlife Habitat Types and Specific Features, Soils Map, Management Recommendations, Locus Map
4. Natural Resource Assessment: Soils, Water, Forest, Wildlife
5. Forest and Wildlife Management Recommendations – Silvicultural (forest rehabilitation/improvement) treatments projected over the next 30-40 years
6. Management Logistics- Scheduling, Access, Finances
7. Community Usage – Recreation, Education, and potential volunteer group conservation projects

An approximate cost estimate of \$8,500 was also submitted along with a breakdown of meetings and field analysis. This included a fee of \$3,000 due upon completion of natural resource maps with the balance due upon the management plan completion.

Mr. Moreno stated that the plan submitted is an outline and is not the entire proposal. There was a discussion relative to what was not included in the proposal. Alt. deBeer suggested that Mr. Moreno outline what was not included and how it would affect the final cost. Mbr. O'Brien asked him to edit the proposal to delete the things not included and give a separate figure for those items and Chrm. Karcz suggested that Mr. Moreno put his proposal into a cost range. Mr. Moreno stated that he is willing to comply with the Commission Members suggestions and it was agreed that he and Mbr. O'Brien will work together relative to the details and modifications of the Plan. Mbr. O'Brien requested that, for Grant Funding purposes, Mr. Moreno send an edited version of the proposal minus what is not covered. Mr. Moreno agreed to draft the requested edited proposal as well as a more accurate cost estimate. The Commission will discuss both the proposal and the cost estimate again at the October 2, 2006 meeting.

It was agreed that the proposal be sent to SPNHF, who is the holder of the Conservation Easement, for their review.

Mbr. Knee shared a comment from Mike Speltz that there are pockets of land that have not yet been managed. He mentioned that the Lawrence sons, having grown up on the property as former owners, would be a good

source of information relative to the history of the land. Mbr. Knee stated that timber on the land and the water in the Aquifer, education and public awareness need to be thoroughly flushed out.

Mr. Moreno offered to come up with some project suggestions for the land that groups could do.

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Alt. deBeer asked what level of detail Mr. Moreno was thinking of for the education portion of the project and Mr. Moreno answered that there will be a list of potential things, but that a study should be implemented. Mbr. Sturdivant suggested the UNH students could do a survey involving a simple laundry list or finding a specific project for a group to work on.

In answer to a question by Alt. deBeer, Mr. Moreno stated that the can compile work/background information that is available on the property so that this information is all together and included in the final forest management plan document. Relative to a general timeline from project start to finish, Mr. Moreno stated he could possibly begin by the first of the year and would take from 4 to 6 months, so potentially from January through June.

LOON POND

Mbr. O'Brien and Chrm. Karcz signed an extension to the option agreement for the Loon Pond property between Mr. Lake and the Conservation Commission. The agreement extension expiration date is 5:00 pm on September 29, 2006.

FREMONT SCHOOL BOARD

At 8:45 pm Fremont School Board members Christine Kenneway, Linda Zukas, Marion Guidoboni met with the Commission to discuss Fremont School District owned properties in conjunction with the potential Fremont School District buy-in with the Sanborn Regional School District. Mrs. Kenneway explained that Fremont and Kingston are in the process of preparing agreements in anticipation of the buy-in. She stated that all of the Fremont School District owned property could be part of the buy-in cost, but did not necessarily have to be. Mrs. Kenneway stated that Fremont School District owns a parcel of approximately 83.3 acres (Map 2 Lot 151) that could be part of the buy in cost or could be retained by the Town of Fremont. Mrs. Zukas stated that the recent re-evaluation of the parcel is \$450,000, but in the scheme of a 20 year buy-in plan it may be better for the town to keep it rather than include it in the new district. Mrs. Kenneway stated that there also are two small parcels owned by the Fremont School District in the immediate vicinity of the larger one. There was a discussion relative to retaining the property for the town or combine it with the buy-in costs. Chrm. Karcz noted that it helps to buffer Spruce Swamp and, if Fremont were to retain it, there is a possibility of linking over to the town owned Oak Ridge property. Mbr. Knee voiced his opinion that it would be doing the Town a disservice to let it go. It was the consensus of the Commission that the three properties be retained by the Town of Fremont and not be considered part of the school buy-in cost.

REGIONAL CONSERVATION PLAN FOR NH COASTAL WATERSHED

Mbr. O'Brien reported that she is planning to attend the September 12, 2006 Regional Conservation Plan meeting and will report back to the Members.

CORRESPONDENCE

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1. An August 29, 2006 correspondence from Thomas Gilbert of NHDES to Ingalls Lane Realty, LLC relative to a routine inspection of the Conservation Area referenced in Wetland Bureau permit #2002-637. Mr. Gilbert issued notification that in reference to Wetland Bureau Permit condition #7 under the Wetland Preservation Section stated “signs to indicate the location and restrictions on the area shall be posted every 150 feet along the boundary of the conservation area prior to construction” were not observed during the inspection and that a near future site investigation may be conducted to verify the progress on the site.
2. An August 29, 2006 correspondence from Thomas Gilbert of NHDES to Dakota Realty Trust relative to a routine inspection of the Conservation Area referenced in Wetland Bureau permit #2003-2181. Mr. Gilbert issued notification that in reference to Wetland Bureau Permit condition #7 under the Wetland Preservation Section stated “signs to indicate the location and restrictions on the area shall be posted every 150 feet along the boundary of the conservation area prior to construction” were not observed during the inspection and that a near future site investigation may be conducted to verify the progress on the site.

Mbr. O’Brien made the motion to adjourn at 9:50 pm.

Motion seconded by Mbr. Sturdivant with unanimous favorable vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Bolduc